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Fall 2013

Ethnopolitical Landscapes of the Contemporary World

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The School of Diplomacy and International Relations
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
Ethnopolitical Landscapes of the Contemporary World
DIPL 2101
Fall 2013

Dr. Naaborle Sackeyfio

Monday and Wednesday: Section AA: 11:00am-12:15pm; Section AB: 12:30pm-1:45pm Duffy Hall Rm. 61

Office Hours: Wednesdays: **2:00pm-3:00pm and by appointment**

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Course Description

Ethnopolitical Landscapes examines the impact of nationalism and ethnicity in world politics. The course will explore the theoretical foundations of nationalism and identity, while considering political, economic, socio-demographic developments that have shaped the contemporary world. We will focus on topics such as the rise of nation-states, the effects of nationalism, nation building, the consequences of imperialism in the developing world, ethnicity and nationalism, ethnic relations in various parts of the globe, as well as the post Cold War globalized world.

*Please note that I may make adjustments to the syllabus during the course of the semester.

Required Texts

The following books are available for purchase in Duffy, Hall the campus bookstore, but you may also order them online.

Ignatieff, Michael. 1993. *Blood and Belonging: Journeys into the New Nationalism*. New York, NY: Noonday Press.

Smith, Anthony D. 2010. *Nationalism* [2nd edition]. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

Taras, Raymond C. and Rajat Ganguly. 2010. *Understanding Ethnic Conflict* [4th edition]. Boston, MA: Pearson Longman.

Course Goals

By the end of the course it is expected that you will be able to:

- Describe and explain concepts of ethnicity, identity and nationalism
- Critique approaches for managing ethno-political as well as religious conflicts
- Assess the relationship between historical factors and current conflicts as well as the multi-faceted nature of ethnic politics in a globalized world

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance**-Students are expected to attend all classes, arrive on time and remain for the duration of each class. The penalty for excessive absence is a reduction in your attendance grade for the semester.
2. **Leading class discussions**-Each student will start off a class discussion by presenting a 5-minute summary and analysis of the day's readings. Each student should present the main thesis, outline the author's argument, identify the evidence, and provide the conclusion. Is the argument logically coherent? Does the author provide empirical evidence in support of the main thesis? Offer your own well-reasoned ideas on the topic.
3. **Journal report**-In an effort to challenge and perhaps consider new ways of thinking about ethnicity, nationalism and identity politics, you will be asked to compile at least five news articles related to the themes of the course through the lens of current (contemporary) events and search for patterns or congruent themes that you discover which pertain to representations of conflict and ethnic relations around the world. This is a very exciting component that will require you to think about your own preconceptions of how various conflicts, media images, and historical reference inform the current discourse on struggles for power and forms of government across the globe. How your own understanding of contemporary political events, the use of old and new media has possibly changed perceptions including yours and what the larger themes that you identify relate to ethnicity, the impact of nationalism, imperialism, colonialism and post Cold-War developments that we'll discuss during the term. For this assignment, you are expected to turn in a 5-7-page journal report that addresses these aspects. I will hand out a rubric and guidelines for this assignment in advance. **Your journal report is due in class on November 6th.** Please submit your articles in conjunction with your report. Your journal report will count for a total of 20 percentage points of your grade for the course. At a date TBD, I will provide of news sources on blackboard that pertain to different regions of the world to guide you along in your project. Please use at least 5-8 sources and be sure to include a bibliography and use reputable news sites (e.g. the news sources I provide) but also draw on at least one journals and articles from databases such as JSTOR or Academic Search Premier. You can use APA or Chicago style. Style guides are available at the library, bookstore, or online at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>. Please Avoid Wikipedia. Any questions regarding the journal report are welcome.
4. **Group Presentations/Debates**-I will divide the class into groups of approximately 3-5 individuals and students will present on an aspect of ethno-political or religious conflict and 'accommodation'. More broadly your focus should center on three aspects: conflict management, mediation and negotiation. I will assign you to respective groups by Midterm and determine which group goes when using a lottery. You will be expected to prepare a one to two page information sheet on the nature of the conflict, why and how it originated, as well as possible solutions using the theoretical and practical foundations we cover in class. Be sure to draw on a number of sources and include a works cited page.

I will hand out a suggested list of topics and the presentations or debates will take place between Nov 11-13 (and possibly Nov 18th). Additionally, I will hand out a set of guidelines and format prior to when the debates or presentations begin.

5. The **midterm** and **final** exams will be in-class, based on lecture material and assigned readings with the format TBD. They will count for 20% and 30% respectively.

COURSE POLICY

6. In an effort to be considerate to fellow classmates and the professor, it is expected that once class begins cell phones are cut off or placed on a silent ring tone.
7. **Academic Integrity/Plagiarism-** Students are expected to honor the standards of academic integrity as outlined in the University catalog. Any work, drawn from sources other than one's own must be properly documented-that is cited and attributed accurately. If any policies seem unclear, feel free to contact the professor for additional clarification.
8. From time to time, I will include articles accessible in PDF form. I may periodically include articles accessible on **blackboard, through the library or other sources.**
9. **Missed exam policy-**Students who miss an exam owing to unexpected circumstances should notify me as soon as possible. Accommodations for makeup exams will be made only in the case of a documented emergency. Students who miss an exam must notify me as soon as possible for alternative accommodations.
10. **Assignments-** All assignments are to be handed to me in class. Emailed assignments will not be accepted because from time to time glitches with email can result in mishaps. Hence I will only accept assignments handed to me personally or left in my mailbox at McQuaid Hall per my specification. On another note, late assignments will suffer a penalty of 5 points off per each day late (except in the case of a documented emergency).
11. **Disabilities-**Let me know of any disabilities that require prescribed attention and keep in mind that your disability should be on file with the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), which is located in Duffy Hall, Room 67. To receive assistance please self-identify. The staff at DSS will help you to develop a plan for accommodation. For more information contact DSS at (973) 313-6003.
12. **Laptops-** Laptops are allowed for note taking as long as they do not distract you from participation in discussion. However, this policy is subject to change.*
13. **Emergency conditions:** In case of unexpected conditions be it weather or otherwise that may possibly disrupt our regular schedule please check your email and/or the School Administrator before class for any updates.
14. **Email Policy-** I will do my best to get back to you within a minimum of 24 hours. However, I am not available on the weekends.

Grading:

Attendance and Participation (Leading class discussions)	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Journal Report	20%
Group Presentations/Debates	20%
Total	100%

Evaluation: Final Grades will based on the following scale:

A 94-96	B+87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69
A- 90-93	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 60-66
	B- 80-82	C-70-72	F 0-59

Course Outline

Week 1 & 2 (Aug 26-Sept 4): Introduction and course overview; No class on Sept 2!

Ethnicity and Nationalism: Definitions and Theories

Smith, Chapters 2 & 4 (Concepts, Ideologies, and Theories)

Taras & Ganguly, Chapters 1 “Ethnic Conflict on the World Stage.”

Week 3 (Sept 9-11): Historical Approaches

Smith, pp. 53-63 and Chap 3 & 5

Wed, Sept 11—Section AB Group Meetings (note: no meetings will be held between 12-1 PM in observance of Mass of the Holy Spirit)

Jack Snyder, “Varieties of Nationalism” Civic Britain, Revolutionary France and Ethnic Serbia, Chap 4 PDF to be uploaded to blackboard

Lessons from Greece: PDF to be uploaded to blackboard

Week 4 (Sept 16-18): Sources of Ethnic Conflict, International Norms, and International Security

Taras and Ganguly, Chap 2 & 3

Part II: Case Studies**Week 5 (Sept 23-25): The Politics of International Intervention: IGOs, Regional Organizations and INGOs**

Taras and Ganguly, Chap 4

Week 6 & 7 (Sept 30-Oct 9):

Nationalism and the Collapse of Empire: The Russian-Chechen Conflict Chap 5

Ignatieff, Chap 1, “Croatia and Serbia”

Midterm Review

Week 8: (Oct 14-16) No Class on Oct 14!

Midterm Exam Oct 16

Week 9 & 10 (Oct 21-30): Western Military Intervention and Ethno-Religious Conflicts: Iraq, Afghanistan, and Former Yugoslavia

Taras & Ganguly, Chapter 9, “Western Military Intervention and Ethno-Religious Conflicts: Iraq, Afghanistan, and Former Yugoslavia
Ignatieff, Chapter 5, Kurdistan

Week 11(Nov 4-6): Ethnicity, Identity and Nationalism in the Developing World

Taras and Ganguly, Chap 8
Additional Reading may be assigned

(Nov 6): Intractable Ethnic War? The Tamil-Sinhalese Conflict In Sri Lanka-Taras and Ganguly, Chap 7

**Week 12 (Nov 11-13): Group Presentations/Debates
Is War Inevitable in Multi-Ethnic Societies?**

Reading TBA

Week 13 & 14 (Nov 18-25): Democracy, Ethnicity, and the Politics of Accommodation in the West

Nov 18 Group presentations wrap-up (tentative)

Taras & Ganguly, Chapter 6: Separatist Movements in Constitutional Democracies
Ignatieff, Chapter 4, “Quebec,” and Chap 6, “Northern Ireland

No Class on wed, Nov 27! Thanksgiving Recess

Week 15 (Dec 2-4): Third Party Intervention and ethics: Ethno-Religious Conflict and new issues

Jonathan Fox, “The Rise of Religious Nationalism and Conflict: Ethnic Conflict and Revolutionary Wars,” *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 41, 2004, pp. 715-731 PDF

The battle for Egypt, Reading TBA

The politics of identity and religion: Syria’s Uprising-Reading TBA

Week 16 (Dec 9): To Intervene or Not to Intervene: Post-Cold War norms and politics

Taras and Ganguly, Chap 10

Last day of Class: Wrap up and Review

Week 17 (Dec 16) Final Exam!!!